

The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“The shocking thing to us was to see more than a half million dollars dropped in two weeks...” - Democratic State Rep. Mark Kruzan, on national GOP money spilling into legislative races, to the Bloomington Herald-Times

White-knuckle time at Indiana polls

Volatility is the word in final hours

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

Showers are likely across the Hoosier state on Tuesday morning, partial clearing in the afternoon, with highs in the mid-60s.

That’s a relatively safe prediction.

But other than the re-elections of Gov. Frank O’Bannon and U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar, this is the most wide-open election since 1960. It would be impossible for me or any other observer to make a reliable forecast on who will

control the presidency, both branches of Congress, and the Indiana House. Predicting the weather is safer.

Here is the latest information regarding the elections in Indiana and the nation:

HILL’S BROTHER ENDORSES BAILEY: In what is one of the most bizarre races, the older brother of U.S. Rep. Baron Hill was to be in Jeffersonville this morning to endorse 9th CD Republican challenger Michael Bailey. Tony Hill, 70, of Mountainburg, Ark., told the *Louisville Courier-Journal* that Bailey is “not an extremist. He’s a great guy. I’m looking forward to backing him.” Tony Hill said that he would have backed his younger brother if they had agreed on even half the issues. “I love my brother. He’s my little brother and we’ve always had good relations.” Tony Hill acknowledged that those relations soured a year or so ago. Hill spokeswoman Angela Belden said the Baron-Tony Hill relationship “is a family issue.”

PRESIDENTIAL: The presidential race is tightening once again, with the latest CNN/*USA Today*/Gallup poll showing Bush ahead 47 to 45 percent. CNN analyst Bill Schneider noted Sunday night that Gore is gaining supporters from Green Party nominee Ralph Nader and independents. Bush had led among independents by a 41 to 36 percent margin a couple of days ago, but that lead had narrowed 41 to 40 percent.

BUSH’S DUI: Most weekend commentary on the revelation of George Bush’s 1976 DUI seemed to discount it as a factor. In CNN’s weekend survey, only 9 percent said

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REPORT**

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INDIANA SETS JOBLESS RECORD: Indiana set an all-time low jobless rate in September at 2.1 percent. The rate in August was 3.3 percent. The September rate was the lowest since the state began tracking unemployment rates 30 years ago. The nation's jobless rate for October was 3.9 percent. The unemployment rate for Hispanics in Indiana stood at 5 percent and for African-Americans at 7.3 percent.

SENATE COULD GO DEMOCRATIC: Polls show Republican Senate incumbents in Delaware, Minnesota, Michigan, Missouri, Montana and Washington in extremely tough re-election fights, an open Florida Republican seat leaning Democratic and endangered Virginia Democrat Charles Robb pulling even in his uphill fight for re-election, CNN reported. "This may be the last time you have to address me as minority leader," Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle told reporters. "There is no doubt that if the election were held today, we'd win back the majority. We've got momentum in each of these races and I think we're going to win." At Wednesday's HPR Pre-

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11th Hour, from page 1

Bush's arrest made them less likely to vote for him. But 16 percent said it was relevant to Bush's ability to serve. In a *Washington Post* survey, about 15 percent said the arrest might make a difference and 7 percent said it raised "serious" questions about whether they would vote for Bush. Those numbers don't seem too great, but in a razor thin race, that little sliver of support could be critical.

ELECTORAL COLLEGE:

ABC's analysis has Bush leading in the Electoral College, 213 to 182, with 143 votes as tossups. But Gore has tiny leads in several key tossup states, including Florida, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan, where a *South Bend Tribune* poll published on Nov. 4 had Gore leading, 46 to 41 percent. A recent Zogby poll had Gore leading by 10 percent in Michigan. If those tight races all swing toward Gore, he could win the presidency. The Rasmussen Portrait of America EC survey has Bush at 224, Gore at 168 with 146 tossups. CNN had Bush leading 224 to 191 with 133 votes considered tossups. Jack Colwell of the *South Bend Tribune* noted, "With Bush leading nationally and

Gore doing better in key states such as Michigan, chances of Gore winning the presidency in the Electoral College but not having the most popular votes nationally were enhanced." There has also been speculation on whether EC electors could shift, as happened in 1968 when one Nixon elector voted for George Wallace; 1976 when a Ford elector voted for Ronald Reagan; and in 1988 when a Dukakis elector voted for Lloyd Bentsen.

U.S. HOUSE: Analyst Norm

Ornstein said on CNN this morning that the Democrats are in "a bit of a struggle." They have to take 10 or 12 of the Republican seats because they'll lose some of their own." The Democrats need to make a net gain of seven seats to retake control of the House. HPR is keenly watching the 3rd and 9th CDs in Indiana where Democratic U.S. Reps. Tim Roemer and Baron Hill are running in races that appear to be tightening, in part because Bush looks as if he will run very strong in those districts while Gore's fav/unfavs are very high in both Northern and Southern Indiana. We're also keeping an eye on the 5th CD where Democratic challenger Greg Goodnight received a series of late newspaper endorsements.

2000 Gubernatorial Race Polling Sequences

	HPR/TR 6/10-15	Star/13 8/24-27	WISH 9/9-10	SBT/22 9/18	JMA 9/24-25	HPR/TR 9/30-10/1	WISH 10/10	SBT/22 10/12	Star/13 10/26-28	HPR/TR 10/28-29
O'Bannon	44	50	44	48	48	46	46	49	49	52
McIntosh	40	29	26	33	34	38	26	34	33	37
Horning	3	--	1	--	1	4	2	2	2	3
Others	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--
Undecided	13	21	29	17	17	12	26	15	16	8

Final Presidential Polling Numbers

	CNN/Gallup	ABC	MSNBC/Zogby	CBS/NYT	W Post	Rasmussen	Newsweek
Bush	47	49	47	49	48	48	45
Gore	45	45	46	45	46	41	43
Nader	4	3	5	3	3	4	5
Buchanan	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
Undecided	4	3	1	2	2	7	7

INDIANA HOUSE: Indiana Democrats appear to be stunned by the late money being spent in key districts. Currently HPR rates Democratic-held seats in HD19, 30 and 64 and Republican-held seats 24 and 57 as tossups. Sen. Lugar also campaigned for Republicans in Crown Point, Muncie and Richmond over the weekend. HPR believes that a Republican pickup of 2 to 3 seats is possible. If the GOP picks up three seats, we'll have another 50/50 split in the House. The real wildcard in the fight for control of Indiana's lower chamber is whether the Bush/Lugar coattails extend down into legislative races, or whether the Bayh/O'Bannon model (winning governor picks up between three and six seats) will prevail. Indiana Democrats appeared to be on their heels toward the end of last week on this (See Mark Kruzan quote on page 1). To

be perfectly blunt about it, we don't know how that's going to play out. This is a very volatile situation.

U.S. SENATE: The Democrats would have to "run the table" in order to take control of the Senate, where the Republicans have a 54 to 46 advantage. However, that is a distinct possibility.

TURNOUT: Indiana Republicans say they are making more than a million GOTV phone calls in the final weekend. Marion County sent out more than 20,000 absentee ballots, possibly a new record. Lake County Democratic Chair Stephen Stiglich told The Times, "If we can hit 65 percent, it will be advantageous for us in Republican areas." Lake County GOP Chair Roger Chiabai said his organization has fielded a record number of requests for yard signs. ❖

TICKER T A P E

Election Briefing, former Indiana Republican chairman Rex Early predicted that U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar would win his fifth term by "a million votes." Lugar holds the all-time Indiana plurality record with a 762,000 vote win in 1988 while carrying 91 out of 92 counties. On the House side, Republicans are confident they will hold their majority and could do even

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better. "We'll stay even, or may even pick up a seat," Republican House Speaker Dennis Hastert said (CNN). But Democrats, who enjoy a 26-9 advantage in open seats, claim to be peaking at the right time and point to a host of Republican incumbents who remain below 50 percent in polls. "We feel optimistic that we can win the six or seven seats that we need to win back a majority in the House," House Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt told reporters. Reuters quoted Larry Sabato, a University of Virginia political scientist, saying of the House, "Anyone who says they know what will happen is kidding you. Nobody knows." Said Jim Wilkinson of the Republican campaign committee, "It's the independents who are going to win this election" (Reuters).

GREGG CLAIMS REPUBLICANS ARE DIVERTING MONEY INTO HOUSE RACES: Indiana House Speaker John Gregg charged that Indiana Republicans have diverted \$426,000 from GOPAC, the Republican National Committee and the National Republican Congressional Committee into Indiana House races. "As it has become more obvious that

Indiana 2000 Racing Form

GOVERNOR, congressional races

Governor: Republican: U.S. Rep. David McIntosh. **Democrat:** Gov. Frank O'Bannon. **Libertarian:** Andrew Horning. **1996 Results:** O'Bannon 1,107,342, Goldsmith 997,505, Dillon 35,261. **2000 Forecast:** The *Indianapolis Star* endorsed O'Bannon (Gene Pulliam and Harrison Ullmann are probably spinning in their graves). "Hoosiers should elect Gov. Frank O'Bannon to a second term Tuesday. He has earned *The Star's* endorsement partly on his own merits, but also because his Republican opponent ... has failed to show his readiness for the governor's office," the editorial read. It is the first time in memory *The Star* has endorsed a Democrat for governor. The *Star's* antagonistic stance toward Democrats in the past has been the stuff of print legends. In 1976, *The Star* refused to accept paid advertising from Larry Conrad's campaign. **Status:** *LIKELY O'BANNON*.

U.S. Senate: Republican: U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar. **Democrat:** David L. Johnson. **Libertarian:** Paul Hager. **1988 results:** Lugar (R) 1,430,525, Wickes (D) 668,778. **1994 results:** Lugar (R) 1,039,625, Jontz (D) 470,799, Bourland (L) 17,343, Barton (A) 15,801. **2000 Forecast:** The key question here is whether Lugar breaks his own Indiana plurality and county records (760,000 votes in 1988; 91 of 92 counties). Rex Early predicted that Lugar would win by at least 1 million votes. **Status:** *Safe Lugar*.

Attorney General: Republican: Steven Carter. **Democrat:** Karen Freeman-Wilson. **Libertarian:** Sean Harshey. **2000 Forecast:** HPR/TeleResearch Poll had Carter leading 40 to 30 percent. Carter went from one of the cutest TV ads of the year (telemarketers and daughter spilling milk) to the absolute worst ad (finger nails scratching a blackboard). If he loses, that terrible, terrible ad may be the reason. The South Bend Tribune endorsed Freeman-Wilson and she appeared with mayors Scott King of Gary, Steve Luecke of South Bend, Graham Richard of Fort Wayne and Bart Peterson of Indianapolis in what could be a new test of big city mayoral clout. **Status:** *LEANS CARTER*.

Congressional District 2: Republican: Mike Pence. **Democrat:** Robert Rock Jr. **Independent:** Bill Frazier. **Geography:** Muncie, Anderson, Richmond, Shelbyville, Columbus and East Central Indiana. **1994 Results:** McIntosh (R) 93,592, Hogsett (D) 78,241. **1996 Results:** McIntosh 122,288, Carmichael (D) 83,478, Zimmerman (L) 4,662. **1998 Results:** McIntosh (R) 99,584, Boles (D) 62,426, Federle (L) 2,236. **2000 Forecast:** We expect Pence to win his first term in his third try (like Phil Sharp and John Brademas). The Muncie Star-Press endorsed Rock, but the Democrat's campaign was so feeble that he couldn't even launch a TV ad campaign.. **Status:** *Likely Pence*.

Congressional District 3: Republican: Chris Chocola. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer. **Geography:** South Bend, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Northern Indiana. **1994 results:** Roemer 72,497, Burkett 58,787. **1996 Results:** Roemer 114,381, Zakas (R) 80,748, Taylor (L) 2,331. **1998 Results:** Roemer 84,625, Holtz 61,041. **2000 Forecast:** Sen. John McCain stumped for Chocola in South Bend on Saturday as part of a nationwide barnstorming tour., saying in a 14-minute speech that Chocola "will work to reform campaign finance." U.S. Rep. Tom Davis, R-Va., said, "If Chocola wins, we take the House." Roemer said at a rally with O'Bannon and Kernan, "It's ironic and almost funny; my opponent opposes John McCain's signature issue" (*South Bend Tribune*). Jack Colwell of the *Tribune* and Stephanie Gattman of the *Elkhart Truth* said during last Thursday's HPR Pre-Election Briefing in South Bend that Chocola appears to be closing fast and the election could go down to the wire. A *South Bend Tribune/WSBT* Poll shows this race narrowing with Roemer ahead 48 to 41 percent with 11 percent undecided. Pollster Del Ali sees a probable range of a 52-48 percent Roemer win to a McCloskey Scenario

HORSE RACE

(winner decided in wee hours of the morning). Roemer and Chocola ran into each other at the Farmers Market in South Bend on Saturday morning. **Status:** *TOSSUP*.

Congressional District 5: Republican: U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer. **Democrat:** Greg Goodnight. **Libertarian:** Scott Benson. **Geography:** Kokomo, Marion, Peru, Monticello, Lowell, Northern Indiana. **1994 results:** Buyer 108,575, Beatty 43,619, Alfred (L) 3,328. **1996 Results:** Buyer 133,604, Clark (D) 67,125, Lehman (L) 5,255. **1998 Results:** Buyer (R) 101,567, Steele 58,504 (D), Waters (L) 2,317. **2000 Forecast:** The *Kokomo Tribune*, *Logansport Pharos-Tribune* and *South Bend Tribune* endorsed Goodnight. UAW contract that gives workers Election Day off could help Goodnight. We feel this race has tightened, but whether Goodnight has enough momentum remains to be seen. **Status:** *LEANS BUYER*.

Congressional District 8: Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. **Democrat:** Dr. Paul Perry. **Libertarian:** Tom Tindel. **Geography:** Evansville, Bloomington, Vincennes and SW Indiana. **1994 results:** Hostettler (R) 93,529, McCloskey (D) 84,857. **1996 Results:** Hostettler (R) 109,582, Weinzapfel (D) 106,134, Hager (L) 3,799. **1998 Results:** Hostettler (R) 92,227, Riecken (D) 81,381, Hager (L) 3,395. **2000 Forecast:** Hostettler seems to have had an edge in this district this fall and with a George W. Bush expected to do well in the 8th, we believe the trending favors the incumbent. **Status:** *Leans Hostettler*.

Congressional District 9: Republican: Michael Bailey. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Baron Hill. **Libertarian:** Sara CothamChambers. **Geography:** Lawrenceburg, Rising Sun, Connersville, New Albany Jeffersonville, Madison, Nashville and SE Indiana. **1994 results:** Hamilton 91,459 (D), Leising (R) 84,315. **1996 Results:** Hamilton (D) 128,885, Leising (R) 97,747, Feeney (L) 2,315. **1998 Results:** Hill (D) 92,477, Leising (R) 87,278, Feeney (L) 2,397. **2000 Forecast:** Bailey told HPR that he would be endorsed by Hill's brother. Hill returned to the district over the weekend to campaign after the long Congressional session kept the incumbent in Washington. Gregory Hall of the *Louisville Courier-Journal* reported, "The delay raises questions, just days from next Tuesday's election, about whether Hill's campaign has been hurt because he was unable to be in the district more often." Last Thursday, Hill began running attack TV against Bailey on education issues, leading some observers to speculate the race had tightened. Hill told the *C-J* that his internal tracking numbers are "strong." Bailey predicts he will win. Conventional wisdom centered on Hill's huge money advantage and a good year for incumbents suggest he will win. A strong Bush plurality, the GOP pickup of a number of Ohio River mayoralships in 1999, potentially tepid labor support for Bailey over trade with China, Hill's relative lack of name ID, Bailey's very unconventional campaign and this district's erratic recent history will prompt us to keep an eye on this race for a possible upset. **Status:** *Leans Hill*.

INDIANA HOUSE races

House District 4: Republican: Rep. Ralph Ayres. **Democrat:** Mike Bucko.

Geography: Porter, LaPorte counties. **1994 Results:** Ayres (R) 14,672. **1996 Results:** Ayres 20,986. **1998 Results:** Ayres 14,207. **2000 Forecast:** Bucko has been a decent candidate, but Ayres will benefit from a kind year for incumbents. **Status:** *Leans R*.

House District 19: Republican: Ron Johnson. **Democrat:** Rep. Bob Kuzman.

Geography: Crown Point, south Lake County. **1994 results:** Conlon (R) 8,850, McCall (D) 5,280. **1996 Results:** Kuzman (D) 12,236, Sparks (R) 10,453. **1998 Results:** Kuzman 9,130, Gasparovic (R) 6,917. **2000 Forecast:** Sen. Lugar campaigned for Johnson Friday night at the Republican's home with more than 100 supporters watching. "I was impressed with his idealism," Lugar said (*Times of Northwest Indiana*). Kuzman accused Johnson of being a "puppet of political bosses" and said the House Republicans are trying to "buy this election." That's the rhetoric of a politician running scared. This seat is ripe for an upset. **Status:** *Tossup*.

House District 24: Republican: Rep. Rick McClain. **Democrat:** Bob Sabatini.

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David McIntosh has no chance to become the next governor of Indiana, the rats have jumped off the sinking ship that is the McIntosh campaign and moved over to try and take over control of the Indiana House," Gregg said on Thursday. At the HPR Pre-Election Briefings in Indianapolis and South Bend, Brian Howey forecast at least a two-seat GOP pickup in the House with the possibility of a three-seat pickup and a 50/50 split. Howey sees the best chances for GOP pickups in HD64 (Frenz-Holcomb); HD19 (Kuzman-Johnson); HD30 (Herrell-Burkhardt) and HD68 (Bischoff-Leising). At the HPR Pre-Election Briefings, Ron Gifford of Baker & Daniels noted that in the case of a 50/50 split, the likely gubernatorial winner - Frank O'Bannon - would choose the speaker. Also at the HPR Briefing, Dave Kitchell of the Logansport Pharos-Tribune believed Rep. Ron Herrell, D-Kokomo, would win re-election in HD30, as would Democratic Rep. Claire Leuck in HD25. Kitchell said that there is a real possibility that Democrat Bob Sabatini will upset Republican Rep. Rick McClain in HD24. At the Indianapolis HPR Briefing, WIBC's Eric Berman forecast

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incumbents will win in HD89 (Buell-Sims) and HD94 (Bardon-Ogden). In HD64, the Frenz campaign was preparing an ad claiming that Republican challenger Eric Holcomb paid commercial property taxes late three times and was penalized. Brad Tracy of the House Republican caucus told HPR he believes the GOP will hold on to HD57 (Republican Mike Herndon v. J.D. Lux) and that HD25 (Leuck-Lehe) is a "tossup."

HILL BEGINS AIRING NEGATIVE TV ADS AGAINST BAILEY: Revealing his potential vulnerability in the face of Michael Bailey's unconventional 9th CD challenge, U.S. Rep. Baron Hill began airing TV ads in the Evansville and Louisville TV markets Thursday criticizing his opponent on education. The Louisville Courier-Journal's Gregory Hall reported that the 9th CD race "took an unexpected turn" by airing the ads. At the HPR Pre-Election Briefings in Indianapolis and South Bend last week, Publisher Brian A. Howey noted that the Hill-Bailey race was a potential sleeper upset and said warning signs would include Hill running attack ads in the waning days of the campaign or bringing out former congressman Lee Hamilton for a prolonged barnstorming tour. Now at least one of

Geography: Logansport, Cass, Carroll, Miami counties. **1994 results:** McClain 10,421, Frantz (D) 7,686. **1996 Results:** McClain 15,538. **1998 Results:** McClain 10,281, Fincher (D) 7,345. **2000 Forecast:** Democrats believe they can knock off McClain. Dave Kitchell of the Logansport Pharos-Tribune said at the HPR Pre-Election Briefing he believes Sabatini may pull off the upset. **Status:** *TOSSUP*.

House District 25: Republican: Donald J. Lehe. **Democrat:** Claire Leuck.

Geography: Newton, Benton, White, Carroll and Warren counties. **1994 Results:** Leuck (D) 10,274, Boots (R) 6,940. **1996 Results:** Leuck 13,159, Boots (R) 9,105. **1998 Results:** Leuck 12,004, Conrad (R) 6,960. **2000 Forecast:** Republicans say they will pick up this seat, but we're skeptical. This race has gotten dirty this past week. We forecast Leuck to return. **Status:** *Leans Leuck*.

House District 30: Republican: Karen Buyer Burkhardt. **Democrat:** State Rep.

Ron Herrell. **Geography:** Kokomo, Howard County. **1994 Results:** Padfield (R) 8,589, Howard 7,363. **1996 Results:** Padfield 10,775, Herrell 9,660. **1998 Results:** Herrell 7,711, Burkhardt (R) 7,520. **2000 Forecast:** Lugar campaigned for Burkhardt in Kokomo Sunday night and the visit was covered by WTHR-TV. Herrell said he thinks he'll win, "but it will be close." Controversial Burkhardt radio ads accuse Herrell of voting "to allow murderers, rapists and sexual predators out on the street before they served their full sentences." Marc Geller of the Kokomo Tribune observed, "The ad lacks the real-life component of the Willie Horton issue George Bush Sr. used to attack Michael Dukakis as being soft on crime in the 1988 presidential election. But the similarity between the two attacks cannot be ignored." We believe this race could go either way. **Status:** *Tossup*.

House District 32: Republican: State Rep. Eric Turner. **Democrat:** Bart Herriman.

Geography: Madison, Grant and Miami counties. **1994 results:** Turner (R) 9,496, Beck (D) 7,722. **1996 Results:** Turner 13,188, Stanley (D) 8,981. **1998 Results:** Turner 10,006, Schmidt (D) 6,607. **2000 Forecast:** We expect Turner to turn back an energetic challenge by Herriman. **Status:** *Leans Turner*.

House District 34: Republican: Kaye Whitehead. **Democrat:** Rep. Tiny Adams.

Geography: Muncie, Delaware County. **1994 Results:** Vanleer 8,491, Elliott 7,522. **1996 Results:** Adams 9,630, Vanleer 9,241. **1998 Results:** Adams 8,180, Vanleer (R), 5,466. **2000 Forecast:** Lugar campaigned for Whitehead on Sunday in an effort to tip the scales. We haven't had this race on the radar all year, but the fact that the House Republican caucus sent Lugar here is interesting. Whitehead's \$66,417 to \$63,350 is surprising and impressive, but we believe Adams will prevail. **Status:** *LEANS ADAMS*.

House District 52: Republican: Ken Wonderly. **Democrat:** Rep. Dale Sturtz.

Geography: LaGrange, Noble counties. **1994 Results:** Sturtz (D) 6,837, LeCount (R) 5,789. **1996 Results:** Sturtz 10,049, Hanneman (R) 6,258. **1998 Results:** Sturtz 6,677, Wonderly 6,385. **2000 Forecast:** Sturtz out-raised Wonderly \$113,665 to \$52,156. 'Nuff said. The former sheriff and all-around nice guy returns. **Status:** *Likely Sturtz*.

House District 57: Republican: Mike Herndon. **Democrat:** J.D. Lux. **Geography:**

Shelbyville, Shelby, Bartholomew and Rush counties. **1994 Results:** Linder (R) 12,626. **1996 Results:** Linder 13,730, Thayer (D) 6,704. **1998 Results:** Linder 12,741. **2000 Forecast:** Lux had a huge money advantage, \$112,709 to \$69,520. But Herndon is a former Shelby County sheriff and we sense this is a pure... **Status:** *Tossup*.

House District 60: Republican: John Shean. **Democrat:** Peggy Welch.

Geography: Bloomington, Bloomfield, Lawrence. Greene and Monroe Counties. **1994 results:** Bales 11,825, Anderson 5,210. **1996 Results:** Bales 15,743, Germann (L) 1,931. **1998 Results:** Welch 10,172, Ellington 8,987. **2000 Forecast:** We expect Welch to win re-election. **Status:** *Likely Welch*.

House District 64: Republican: Eric Holcomb. **Democrat:** Rep. John Frenz.

Geography: Knox, Pike, Davies and Gibson counties. **1994 results:** McConnell (D) 10,741, Marshall (R) 7,672. **1996 Results:** Frenz (D) 11,414, Krieg (R) 9,853. **1998 Results:** Frenz (D) 12,623. **2000 Forecast:** Democrats accused Holcomb of paying property taxes late three times in a radio ad. We perceive this race too close to call. **Status:** *Tossup*.

House District 68: Republican: Jean Leising. **Democrat:** Rep. Bob Bischoff.

Geography: Lawrenceburg. **1994 results:** Bischoff 9,427, Ketcham (R) 8,993. **1996 Results:** Bischoff (D) 12,088, Fehrman (R) 8,968. **1998 Results:** Bischoff 11,881, Kristoff (L) 1,742. **2000 Forecast:** Bischoff out-raised Leising \$107,061 to \$84,230. Republicans believe they can pick off this seat. That could happen if Bush wins by a huge advantage in the 9th CD and Michael Bailey really pushes Hill. But we give a slight edge to Bischoff. **Status:** *Leans Bischoff.*

House District 76: Republican: Dan Hostettler. **Democrat:** Rep. Jonathon Weinzapfel.

Geography: Posey, Vanderburgh counties. **1994 results:** Lutz (D) 14,474. **1996 Results:** Lutz (D) 13,981, Harry (R) 7,530. **1998 Results:** Lutz 13,051, Germann (L) 1,303. **2000 Forecast:** Democrats insist Weinzapfel is OK, as the governor is running strong here. But we still wonder if the Congressman will pull his older bro' in. **Status:** *Leans Weinzapfel.*

House District 89: Republican: State Rep. Larry Buell. **Democrat:** Brian Sims.

Geography: SW Indianapolis, Irvington, Beech Grove. **1994 Results:** Buell (R) 9,583, Feeney (D) 5,770. **1996 Results:** Buell 11,281, Osborn (D) 7,872. **1998 Results:** Buell 8,235, Jeffers (D) 5,761, Hubertz (L) 230. **2000 Forecast:** Sources from both parties indicate that Buell may have turned the corner on this one. However, Democrats say O'Bannon will carry Marion County and we're going to be watching his coattails on this race. **Status:** *Leans Buell.*

House District 94: Republican: Paul Ogden. **Democrat:** State Rep. Jeb Bardon.

Geography: NW Indianapolis. **1994 Results:** Morris (Marendt) 7,838, Reasoner 5,537. **1996 Results:** Marendt 10,396, Hinman 9,586, Neal 422. **1998 Results:** Bardon 8,411, Marendt 6,834. **2000 Forecast:** Both Ogden and Bardon are running TV ads - evidence of the big surge of GOP money to counter the Democratic advantage. We still believe Bardon will prevail, partly because the organization of U.S. Rep. Julia Carson will be energized to support Marion County Democratic judges and AG candidate Karen Freeman-Wilson. But this race has drawn closer than we expected. **Status:** *LEANS BARDON.*

- By Brian A. Howey ❖

TICKER T A P E

those signals is in play. Hall reported in the C-J, "Hill has been viewed in political circles as a safe bet for re-election, and until yesterday he hadn't even mentioned his Republican opponent, Michael Bailey, in his TV advertising. As a general rule, candidates with comfortable leads don't run attack ads." Bailey reacted by saying, "It's desperation. It's the politics of fear. He knows what I know. He's going to lose the race." Hill spokeswoman Angela Belden denied Bailey's claims and said Hill remains confident about Tuesday's election. "Campaigns are about highlighting the differences between the candidates," she said. "Our opponent is extreme on many issues." Cliff Staten, the dean of Indiana University Southeast's School of Social Science, observed, "I don't think anyone thinks it's wrapped up, given what Bailey did in the primary. I don't think anyone's going to make that mistake again."

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